

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-14 NEA-14 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03

SS-20 USIA-15 ACDA-19 OMB-01 SAJ-01 DRC-01 /150 W

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R 021545Z JUL 74

FM AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8734

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

USMISSION NATO

USMISSION USUN

USDOCOSOUTH

USECOM

C O N F I D E N T I A L NICOSIA 1258

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PINT, CY, GR

SUBJECT: REDUCTION IN SERVICE OF NATIONAL GUARD

REF: DATT 6 823 0053 74; FBIS M011645: NICOSIA 1232

1. GOCYPRUS JULY 1 ANNOUNCED COUNCIL OF MINISTERS DECISION THAT NG TERM OF SERVICE BE REDUCED FROM 24 TO 14 MONTHS FOR ALL PRESENT AND PROSPECTIVE RECRUITS. PRO-GOVT PRESS PRE-DICTS CONSEQUENT HALVING OF NG SIZE (FROM 10,000 TO 5,000) AND MAJOR CUTBACK IN MAINLAND GREEK OFFICER CORPS (PRESENT TOTAL: SOME 800). MAKARIOS EXPECTED ANNOUNCE FURTHER STEPS AT LATEST IN PRESS CONFERENCE JULY 5. MEANWHILE, PRESS CAMPAIGN AGAINST NG AND GOGREEECE HAS ABATED MARKEDLY.

2. COUNCIL OF MINISTERS ALSO DECIDED DISMISS UNSPECIFIED NUMBER OF SECONDARY SCHOOL TEACHERS FOR REASONS OF PUBLIC INTEREST. FURTHER DISMISSALS FROM CIVIL SERVICE, POLICE ARE LIKELY.

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3. SO FAR, NO RPT NO SIGN OF GOGREECE REACTION TO ABOVE MEASURES. NG CHIEF OF STAFF TOLD DATT JULY 2 THAT GOCYPRUS HAS NOT RPT NOT INFORMED NG OF ANY DECISIONS. AMB LAGACOS HAS STILL NOT RPT NOT RETURNED. REPORTEDLY, ARCHBISHOP PREPARING LETTER TO GREEK PRESIDENT GIZIKIS DISCLOSING CAPTURED DOCUMENTS WHICH ALLEGEDLY PROVE LINKAGE BETWEEN NG OFFICERS AND EOKA-B

4. COMMENT: GOCYPRUS HAS NOW STRUCK MAJOR BLOW AT GOGREECE POWER BASE ON ISLAND: DECISION RE NG SERVICE, WHEN RPT WHEN IMPLEMENTED, WILL HALVE NG'S SIZE, SEVERELY DISRUPT ITS ORGANIZATION AND EFFECTIVENESS (AT LEAST FOR TRANSITION PERIOD). WIDELY RUMORED CONCURRENT DOUBLING OF TRU'S STRENGTH, AIDED BY SECONDMENT OF "LOYAL" CYPRIOT CADET AND RESERVE OFFICERS, WOULD THEN DRAMATICALLY SHIFT BALANCE OF INTRA-GREEK POWER ON ISLAND TO MAKARIOS' ADVANTAGE.

5. GOCYPRUS NEED TO STUDY LEGAL, LOGISTIC, MILITARY COMPLEXITIES INVOLVED IN EFFORT TEAR DOWN AND RESHAPE NG MAY PARTLY EXPLAIN DELAY IN ANNOUNCEMENT FURTHER DECISIONS. MORE LIKELY, MAKARIOS IS MODULATING PRESSURE CAMPAIGN TO SUIT OWN NEEDS. MAJOR UNKNOWN CLOUDING OUTCOME HIS CAMPAIGN TO BRING NG TO HEEL IS HOW ATHENS (WHOSE STONY PUBLIC SILENCE UNDERSCORES KNOWN OPPOSITION TO MEASURES SUCH AS ANNOUNCED YESTERDAY) WILL NOW CHOOSE REACT. WE CANNOT YET ANSWER THAT QUESTION FROM HERE.

DAVIES

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NNN

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